The Employees' Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 is applicable to all establishments, employing 20 or more persons and engaged in any of the industries specified in Schedule-I to the Act or class of establishments notified by the Government.

Express lane on NH-9

*444. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY. Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether representation has been received to take up expeditious completion of the four lane express way on NH-9 from Hyderabad to Vijayawada which is vital from business and commercial point of view; and

(b)if so, the action proposed to complete the project early to avoid 30 to 40 accidents taking place daily due to heavy traffic?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The present status of four laning of NH-9 between Hyderabad and Vijayawada is as under:

Stretch	Status
Km. 0/0-22/0 Km.	4-laned
22/0-41/0 Km.	Work of 4-laning in progress
217/0-265/0	4-laned

Four laning of remaining stretch from km. 41/0 to 217/0 could be taken up in phased manner, depending upon availability of resources and *inter-sepriority* of other projects and viability of four-laning on Build Operate & Transfer (BOT) basis.

Civil Services Reforms

*445. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee on Civil Services Reforms headed by Shri P.C. Hota has submitted its report to the Union Cabinet Secretary on the 30th July, 2004;

(b) if so, the salient features of the recommendations made by the Committee in its report; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Committee has made 64 main recommendations on the terms of reference covering (i) making the Civil Service responsive and citizen-friendly, transparent, accountable and ethical in its actions and interface with the people; (ii) making the Civil Service e-governance friendly; (iii) putting a premium on intellectual growth of civil servants and on upgrading their domain knowledge; (iv) protecting the Civil Service against wrongful pressure exerted by administrative superiors, political executive, business interests and other vested interest; (v) changes, if any necessary, in the various All India Services Rules and Central Civil Service Rules to provide a statutory cover to the proposed Civil Service Reforms; (vi) changes in rules governing the disciplinary proceedings against civil servants to decentralize the process as far as practicable, and to make the disposal of such proceedings time-bound; and (vii) matters relating to health insurance, dispute resolution etc.

(c) The Committee has submitted its report recently. The recommendations made by the Committee are being examined with regard to their implementation.

Death of lab animals at ITRC, Lucknow

*446. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to failure of air conditioning system in June last about 700 lab animals died in the newly constructed modern laboratory of Industrial and Toxicology Research Centre of CSIR at Lucknow;

(b) if so, whether the cause of the failure of air-conditioning system has been investigated, if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent of financial loss caused to the research centre due to the incident; and